



Michigan
Office of the Auditor General
REPORT SUMMARY

Performance Audit

Forensic Science Division

Michigan Department of State Police

Report Number:
55-160-02

Released:
October 2003

The mission of the Forensic Science Division (FSD), Michigan Department of State Police (MSP), is to provide leadership, development, coordination, and delivery of "state of the art" forensic services to the criminal justice community.

Audit Objective:

To assess the effectiveness and efficiency of FSD in providing forensic science services to criminal justice agencies.

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Audit Conclusion:

We concluded that FSD was generally effective and efficient in providing most forensic science services to criminal justice agencies. However, because of statutory changes affecting deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) processing and staffing levels that have remained constant, not all DNA forensic services were being completed in a timely manner.

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Noteworthy Accomplishments:

FSD has continuously maintained American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD/LAB) accreditation since first obtaining it in 1984. FSD's ASCLD/LAB accreditation was most recently renewed in October 2002. This accreditation is fundamental in ensuring the credibility of forensic science services.

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Reportable Condition:

The Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) database is incomplete and, therefore, not effectively fulfilling its purpose to provide assistance to law enforcement agencies in investigating and solving crimes. The effectiveness of CODIS was hindered because FSD did not have sufficient resources to process the DNA samples in a timely manner and law enforcement agencies were not submitting all required DNA samples.

As of December 31, 2002, MSP had a backlog of approximately 40,000 DNA samples that had not yet been processed and input into CODIS. In addition, a comparison of convicted offenders to FSD records disclosed that 5% of offenders during the period October 1998 through December 2001 had not been DNA profiled and 49% of offenders during the period January 2002 through July 2002 had not been DNA profiled. (Finding 1)

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Agency Response:

MSP agrees with the finding and recommendation.

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